

The Millennium (Rev 20:1-6)

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Introduction

- **QUESTION: What is this?**



- Eastern Gate (Golden Gate).
- In Jewish tradition, the Messiah will enter Jerusalem through this gate, coming from the Mount of Olives.
- Christians and Muslims generally believe this was the gate through which Jesus entered Jerusalem. (this comes from somewhat veiled verses in Ezekiel 40 ff)
- It was closed by the Muslims in 810, reopened in 1102 by the Crusaders, it was walled up by Saladin after regaining Jerusalem in 1187. Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent rebuilt it together with the city walls, but walled it up in 1541, supposedly to prevent any “false Christs” from entering it, and it has stayed that way.
- **QUESTION: What is the Millennium?**
 - It is an earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ, centered in Jerusalem, that lasts for 1000 years.
 - A literal, chronological view of Revelation leads to Pre-Millennialism. Christ precedes!
 - Millennials, believe Christ brings the Kingdom and we join him
 - Post-Millennials, the church brings the Kingdom and offers it to Christ.
 - A-millennials, *this* is the Kingdom, annihilationists - JWs, Adventists
 - It is the first phase on earth of God’s eternal heavenly Kingdom, also promised in the bible
 - Both the OT and NT are literally filled with references to the promised Millennium
 - There are so many that they cannot be listed in the time we have, See: <https://christinprophecy.org/articles/the-millennium-in-the-old-testament/>
 - This is why the Jews kept looking for Jesus to establish his earthly Kingdom 2000 yrs ago
 - Jesus told Pilate, “my Kingdom is not of this world”, *NOT* “my Kingdom is not of this earth”
 - Gr: kosmos, means a system of order, structure, an arrangement, an administration
 - This is the “world system” that will be completely burned up in Rev 18:8.
 - So, at the end of the seven-year tribulation...
 - An angel announces to the birds of the air to “assemble” for the great supper of God (19:17)

- The Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown “alive” into the Lake of Fire (19:20)
 - They weren’t killed first, so they must have taken on immortal bodies and thrown in.
- The “rest” were killed with the sword that comes from the mouth of the Lord (19:21)
 - These are those who had the mark of the beast and were gathered against the Lord.
- And the birds were filled with their flesh.
- QUESTION: What happens to the faithful believers who survive the tribulation?
- Satan and the demons are still loose!

QUESTION: What is the **Lake of Fire**?

- The term “Lake of Fire” occurs only in Revelation.
- Its introduction brings clarity to the meaning of the place of eternal fire referenced everywhere.
- Jesus says, *“Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Mat 25:41)
- It is called *“unquenchable fire”* in Mark 9:43
- The **Lake of Fire** seems to be a place of final, permanent, eternal torment from which no one ever leaves.
- The Antichrist and the False prophet are never coming out of that place!

Rev 20:1-3, Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

QUESTION: So, what is the **Abyss**?

- Gr: Abussos, literally means the “bottomless place”
- In Luke 8:31, the demons named “Legion” begged Jesus not to send them into the Abyss.
 - He allowed them to go into a herd of pigs which rushed into the lake and were drowned.
- Also, the word **Hell** is a translation of Gr: Tartarus, which can be thought of as the “deepest pit”.
- “In ancient Greek mythology, Tartarus was a horrible pit of torment in the afterlife. It was lower than even Hades, the place of the dead.” (gotquestions.org)
 - 2 Pet 2:4, *“God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to [Tartarus], putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment.”*
 - Demons went after “strange flesh” in Gen 6
 - The people of Sodom tried to commit sodomy with angels in Gen 19
 - And probably speaking of the same place, 1 Pet 3:19 (NLT) says that Jesus ***“went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat.”***
 - Jude explains that *“the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”* (Jude 1:5-7)
- So what is **Hades**? The place of the dead
 - Hades is the Greek god of the dead. The word is used in Luke 16 and other places

- It also seems to be a temporary “holding place”, and also one in which there is torment
- The rich man said, “*for I am in agony in this flame*” (Luke 16:24), and Abraham is clear that “*between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.*” (Luke 16:26)
- Then there is **Gehenna**, translated “hell” in the NT, a word used by Jesus 11 times in the gospels, and James also uses it in his epistle.
 - This is a valley southwest of the Old City of Jerusalem
 - In the OT was where wicked King Ahaz “*offered sacrifices in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, even sacrificing his own sons in the fire.*” (2 Chr 28:3)
 - Also, “*Manasseh also sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the valley of Ben-Hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the Lord’s sight, arousing his anger.*” (2 Chr 33:6)
 - Interestingly, in Jesus day, it became Jerusalem’s famous city garbage dump
 - Everything foul thing was thrown there, including dead bodies of criminals.
 - And, it was always burning and smoldering

- **SUMMARY**

- Probably The Abyss, Tartarus, Hades, and “prison” can all be considered temporary places of punishment.
- The **Lake of Fire** is eternal and permanent and may equate to Gehenna translated as “hell”.
 - In the end, these are all semantics (word games), but there is a definite distinction between temporary and permanent places of torment.
- The Anabaptist Statements of Belief about this:
 - THE INTERMEDIATE STATE: We believe that in the interval between death and resurrection, the righteous will be with Christ in a state of conscious bliss and comfort, but that the wicked will be in a place of torment, in a state of conscious suffering and despair.
 - THE FINAL STATE: We believe that hell is the place of torment, prepared for the devil and his angels, where with them the wicked will suffer the vengeance of eternal fire forever and ever and that heaven is the final abode of the righteous, where they will dwell in the fullness of joy forever and ever.
- QUESTION: Where does the concept of “purgatory” fit in? It doesn’t.
 - Oxford says this: *(in Roman Catholic doctrine) a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are expiating their sins before going to heaven.*
 - Expiating means “atoning for”. Can we atone for our own sins?
 - Heb 9:27, *it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.*



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- The “Pat Steinbeck” dilemma
 - “I can’t believe in a God that would send people to hell forever.”

- QUESTION: Does anyone in here have similar concerns?
 - How would you answer her?
- Names of Satan
 - Dragon – Gr: Drakon (a huge serpent) symbolically: ferocious, wicked
 - Serpent – Gr: Ophis, from: Optanomai (Ophthalmology). Eying its prey. Crafty, shrewd, cunning (sneaky).
 - Devil – Gr: Diabolos, Slanderer (the Father of Lies)
 - Satan – Transliterated from Aramaic: Accuser, Adversary, Enemy
- So, the dragon, the serpent of old, is thrown into the abyss (permanent or temporary?)
 - What is the “serpent of old” a reference to?
 - Chained (bound), shut, and sealed for 1000 years.
 - QUESTION; Where else have we seen “bound angels”?
 - Gen 6, as referenced above by Peter and Jude
 - The four angels by the river Euphrates (Rev 9:14)
 - *Isa 24:21-22, So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the host of [b]heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. 22 They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the [c]dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.*
 - **ALL Angels**
 - Holy Angels (2/3)
 - Fallen Angels (1/3)
 - Unbound
 - Bound
 - Temporarily Bound – Abyss
 - Permanently Bound – Lake of Fire
- QUESTION: Why does the passage say that Satan was bound?
 - “so that he would not deceive the nations any longer”
 - QUESTION: How does Satan typically operate? Lies and deception.
 - He creates an “environment” that appeals to the flesh.
 - QUESTION: Will Satan’s being bound for 1000 years change the world? Yes!
 - QUESTION: Who is the “god” of this world
 - Jesus will rule the nations from Jerusalem and Satan is out of the picture.

Rev 20:4, Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

- “Came to life means resurrection”. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” John 11:25
- QUESTION: Who are those John sees seated on thrones? “They” will judge the world.
 - *Dan 7:18, 22, 27, the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’ the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’*
 - **Resurrected Old Testament Saints (Dan 12:2)**

- ***In 1982, futurist and inventor R. Buckminster Fuller estimated that up until 1900, human knowledge doubled approximately every century, but by 1945 it was doubling every 25 years. And by 1982, it was doubling every 12-13 months. It is now estimated that human knowledge is doubling every 12 hours.***

- `<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/kJy1ORoGaAk?si=bUSB--hlaKEPZcRL" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" referrerpolicy="strict-origin-when-cross-origin" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

- *Mat 19:28-29, And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on [a]His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother [b]or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive [c]many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.*
 - The apostles will sit on thrones and reign with Christ, and even more so the faithful.
- *1 Cor 6:2-3, do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?*
 - **Resurrected New Testament Saints and Raptured Saints**
- Who are those whose souls "came to life"? Tribulation Saints.
 - "Beheaded" means to be killed, or to be cut off. Martyrs.
 - **Resurrected Tribulation Saints**
 - And what will all these be doing during the 1000 years? Reigning with Him!
 - *2 Tim 2:12, It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we [a]deny Him, He also will deny us;*
 - *Rev 5:9-10, "Worthy are You to take the [a]book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*

What is the purpose of a 1000 year earthly Kingdom?

- Most theologians believe this is a "Sabbath Rest" for a "tired" planet.
 - According to the bible, the earth is about 6000 years old (from genealogy and from history)
 - We also know that for the Lord a day is like 1000 years, and ...
 - It also anticipates a restoration of God's original design for man, and for this planet.
- Let's look back to Genesis:
 - What was the weather like? A tropical paradise, unlike anything we have experienced.
 - How was the garden watered? A mist would rise up from the ground.
 - How long did men live before the flood? Up to 900 years
 - What food did they eat? Plants
 - We believe this was all due to the perfect environment, which had:
 - Uniform topography
 - Uniform weather
 - Underground springs

- Pure water
 - Incredibly fertile soil
 - Nutritious fruits and vegetables
 - A water canopy to protect from the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun.
 - Because of this, everything and everyone lived a very long time.
 - Case in point: dinosaurs were just very, very old reptiles.
- Then judgement came in the form of a worldwide flood
 - Do you think this changed the planet?
 - Gen 6:13, God told Noah He will destroy all flesh together with the earth.
 - Gen 7:11, the great fountains of the deep burst open (underground fresh water), and the floodgates of the sky were opened.
 - This is global tectonic activity, as well as the collapse of the water canopy.
 - The land mass was fractured and continents were created (and still drift)
 - Mountains rose up and deep ocean rifts were formed.
 - Silt, sediment, organic matter, washed from the continents into the oceans
 - Humans and sentient animals sought higher ground but succumbed to the rising water ending up on the top layers where they were subject to decay.
 - Buried forests created vast coal reserves.
 - Ancient pre-historic marshes and lakes were buried, creating vast oil fields.
 - Much of the fresh water was made salty, and now covers 75% of the planet.
 - The new topography and increased variances in solar energy created unusual weather patterns, and places; frozen tundras, rain forests, waterless deserts.
 - **Atacama desert** avg ½” per year. It has never rained in some stations.
 - Antarctica has fossilized palm trees and ferns.
 - The earth’s axis may have also been affected, creating seasonal changes.
 - After the flood Noah was told to eat meat, because plant life was virtually destroyed.
 - Some animals probably at this point became carnivores as well.
 - God necessarily instilled in animals a fear of man for their own protection.
- So, how will the Millennium be similar to the original garden?
 - The tribulation judgements will drastically alter and virtually destroy the planet!
 - But something else is happening as well!
 - Somehow God uses the judgements to reshape the earth for the Millennium.
 - Mountains and islands are moved out of their places (6:12, 16:20)
 - *Isa 40:4-5, “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 [a]Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*
 - Jerusalem is lifted up and split down the middle and a river flows from it to the East and West. This requires underground freshwater springs.
 - Perhaps the heavenly cataclysms (mountains being laid low, objects falling from the sky, blood rain, 100 pound hailstones, etc) will trap underground water under massive debris layers.
 - Those debris layers could replenish mineral vitality to the soil
 - Billions of dead people and sea creatures could provide needed fertilizer.
 - Perhaps the judgement of the scorching sun evaporates surface water, replenishing the protective water canopy.
 - Babylon (world system) is destroyed. Cities are leveled to make room for new ones.
 - As mentioned, we have so many prophecies describing the time of the Millennium.

- *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I will raise up for David a righteous [a]Branch; And He will reign as king and [b]act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. Jer 23:5 **Jesus brings justice and righteousness to earth.***
- *And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. Zechariah 14:9 (NASB) **Jesus leads the nations.***
- *Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy . . . Joel 3:17 (NASB) **Jerusalem is the capital city***
- *It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Micah 4:1-2 (NASB) **Jerusalem becomes the highest mountain on earth.***
- *And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:6-9 (NASB) **enmity between animals is gone. carnivores revert to grazing, natural dangers are removed, animals respect human life, all the earth will know who the Lord is***
- *And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase . . . Ezekiel 34:26b-27a (NASB) **The earth will become fruitful and productive***
- *And in that day The mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD To water **the valley of Shittim.** Joel 3:18 (NASB) (the Dead Sea Valley) **There will be abundant fresh water.***
- *The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And **the Arabah** will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. Isaiah 35:1-2 (NASB) (this is pure desert now) **The desert will bloom.***



- *I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For*

*the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. Isaiah 65:19-20 (NASB) **Crying will be eliminated, and people will live to an old age***

- *In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. Isaiah 29:18 (NASB) **No deafness or blindness***
- *They will not labor in vain, Or bear children for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD Isaiah 65:23 (NASB) **Our work will be productive, and children will not be stillborn.***

Rev 20:5-6, The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

- QUESTION: Who are “the rest of the dead”? ALL unbelievers since the creation.
 - What does it mean to come to life?
- “This is the first resurrection” refers to 20:4
 - This now includes all believers from all time, except those surviving the tribulation
 - **“they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”**
- So what is the “second death”? This is coming to life to be judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire
 - Then what is the first death? This is physical death.
- “they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with Him for a thousand years.**”
 - This is describing again our function in the Millennial Kingdom
 - We will serve as Christ’s Kingdom priests and administrators in our glorified bodies
 - So, the worldwide Millennium administration will be ruled by Christ
 - King of Kings, and Lord of Lords
 - *Psalm 2, the nations as an inheritance*
 - *Dan 7:13-14, “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14 “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.*
 - The resurrected saints in glorified bodies will judge, reign and minister with Him
 - As glorified saints we will be sinless and unhampered by our human bodies.
 - **A righteous King surrounded by righteous administrators of the kingdom**
 - *Phil 3:20-21, For our [a]citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform [b]the body of our humble state into conformity with [c]the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*
 - *1 Cor 15:42-49, So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown [b]a perishable body, it is raised [c]an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth,*

[d]earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, [e]we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

- And we will be administering God's Kingdom among the human inhabitants during the Millennium
 - *Luke 19:17-19, Master, your [j]mina has made ten minas more.' 17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, **you are to be in authority over ten cities.**' 18 The second came, saying, 'Your [k]mina, [l]master, has made five minas.' 19 And he said to him also, 'And **you are to be over five cities.**'*

Appearances of the resurrected Jesus:

- ***Mat 16:27-28, "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."***
- *Mat 17:1-3, Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. 2 And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*
- *John 20:19, So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be with you."*
- *Luke 24:30-31, [Road to Emmaus], When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.*

So, does Jesus need to enter Jerusalem through the Eastern gate?

We will be able to do that!

QUESTIONS ABOUT ALL THIS?